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Letter and answer ordered printed in one or more public Papers.

“Philo-Franklin” paper reported, being the only one; and the question as to its being worthy of a premium being put, “it was not determined; the votes on each side being equal.”

Evan Edwards, Esq., presented (per J. Vaughan) *Histoire et Mem. S. R. de Medicine*.

An Extract of a Journal of the Weather at Chevenage in Gloucester in England, for 1789, with two books, with a letter from Judge Turner.

“A stone in which were several petrified Shells &c found, beyond the blue Mountains, by Mr. John Arndt of Easton” with a letter from Mr. Levi Hollingsworth.

1792. *Jan’y 6.* (Annual Election; 19 voters.)

President—Dr. Rittenhouse.

Vice-Presidents—Jefferson, Dr. Smith, Dr. Ewing.

Treasurer—J. Vaughan.

Curators—C. W. Peale, Dr. Barton, Dr. Wistar.

Councillors—Pettit, Collin, Rush, White.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Magaw, Williams, Patterson.

1792. *Jan’y 20.* (21 present.)

Election of 11 new members: Count Paul Andreani, of Milan; Rodolph Vall-Travers, of Hamburg; Ant. Fothergill, of Bath; Anthony Rénatus Charles Mathurin de la Forest, V. Consul Gen. of France to the United States; Jos. Ceracchi, of Rome; Palisot de Beauvois, de la Soc. d. Sc. et Arts du Cap François et Corr. del’Acad. d. S. de Paris; John Rouelle, M.D., of Virginia; Rich. P. Barton, of Mt. Airy, Dinwiddie county, Virginia; Dr. David Jackson, Dr. Wm. Smith, and Nich. B. Waters, M.D., all three of Philadelphia.

“Seal of this Corporation, properly attested, shall be an-

nexed to the Deeds of Conveyance of the Lots of Ground on Mulberry* Street, to Joseph Ogilby & Matthias Sadler."

Rittenhouse delivered to the Society (per Mr. Barton), the cancelled Deed and Mortgage to Hopkinson.

Du Ponceau's letter to Mr. Williams, accompanied with a great variety of "French Dies said to resist Sea Water & all kinds of Acid Substances." Committee to try them by tests of acids: Hutchinson, Barton and Wistar.

J. Rouelle presented (per W. Barton) his "Complete Treatise on the Mineral Waters of Virginia.

A communication in French from M. de Beauvois was referred to the Secretaries for translation.

1792. *Feb'y* 3. (De Beauvois and 19 others present; Dr. Collin in the Chair.)

Mr. Dobson's letter to the President presents to the Society the successive volumes of the Encyclopedia. Thanks ordered and wishes for his "success in the honorable enterprise of so great a Publication."

Franklin's Chair.—"A letter from Mr. Richard Bache to the President, was read :

"*Mr. Bache in this letter, presents the Society with the CHAIR in which his Father-in-Law, Dr. FRANKLIN, used to sit when the Meetings of the Society were held at his House.*" Thanks and a copy of the minute ordered to be sent to Mr. Bache.

Mr. Heart's (an officer in the late Western Expedition), letter to Dr. Barton, "giving an account, under a great variety of particulars, of the antiquities of the Western Country," was read and referred to the Committee of Publication.

Committee to report some Regulations respecting the Library: Wistar, Patterson, Barton.

Bills presented :

Hicks & Mitchell for laying 92 yards of brick pavement, &c., £7 .. 7 .. 11.

* Now named Arch Street.

Lightning Conductors, £6 .. 15 .. 2.

Framing Franklin's portrait, £3 .. 0 .. 0.

For 9½ yards of ribbon [for seals], £12 .. 3.

Peter Fritz & Co., 70 feet curbstone, @ 3*sh.* 6*d.*, £12 .. 5 .. 0.

1792. *Feb'y* 17. (17 present.)

The Committee on the Library reported, and five articles agreed to and confirmed :

1. That a complete catalogue of the Books, Instruments, Models & Specimens of natural history be made by the Curators & printed in a pamphlet.

2. That the Curators serve as Librarians, in rotation or otherwise, lending the books at the Stated Meetings to members, on security for due return.

3. That books borrowed at one meeting be safely returned at the next Meeting, on penalty of a fine $\frac{3}{100}$ of a dollar per volume.

4. That the monies paid for fines go to augment the Library & keep it in proper preservation.

5. That members in arrears for fines should not have the privilege of taking out any book till such arrears be discharged.

Jas. Reynolds' bill for framing Franklin's portrait, £4 .. 10, ordered paid.

Interest to Mr. Bache, due 20th instant, ordered paid.

Thanks to Mr. Aitkin for his gift of Newton's Principia and Bernard Romans, E. and W. Florida.

Pat. de Beauvue's * paper "relative to a new discovery in the Sex of Plants called by Linnæus Cryptogamia" was referred to the Committee of Selection and Publication.

1792. *March* 2. (15 present.)

The minutes being read, the third article of the Library report, was set aside and the following substituted:

"3. That all Books shall be safely returned at the Stated Meeting next after they are borrowed, and in default thereof, the persons borrowing them respectively, shall forfeit and pay a fine of one Eighth of a Dollar per Vol. for all books of the size of a Quarto & upwards, or one Sixteenth

* This name is not clearly written in the minutes. It may be a blunder for *P. de Beauvois*.

of a Dollar for all Books under the size of a Quarto ; & the Fine incurred & payable for any such default, shall be doubled at every stated meeting of the Society which may be held previously to the return of the Books respectively."

"Two specimens of Impressions of Echinus, or Sea Nettle, in Lime-Stone, were presented by Mr. Peter Boyl, of Washington county, Geo., per David Thomas, of Loudon county, Virginia, by letter and note." (Thanks ordered.)

1792. *March* 16. (Rittenhouse, Jefferson and 9 others.)

Rittenhouse's "experiments to show That Steel springs lose part of their Elasticity by being heated" were communicated by letter, which was referred to the Committee of Selection and Publication.

Jer. Belknap's History New Hampshire, Vol. 2d, was presented, through E. Hazard.

The Lease of the Front Room ("contiguous to this chamber") to the College of Physicians, was brought in by Mr. Vaughan for ratification, and ordered to be sealed.

A copy of Rittenhouse's letter to Prof. Mayer of Manheim [*sic*], August 20, 1779, was read, and referred to the Committee of Selection and Publication. If inserted in the next Vol. a translation of Mayer's letter must be also.

The Treasurer was authorized to exchange with the printer three-quarters of the number of copies of Vol. II, for half as many copies of Vol. I, and half as many of Vol. III, when printed.

Fifty sets of the Transactions American Philosophical Society, to be reserved, and the surplus to be sold by the Treasurer.

1792. *April* 6. (8 present.)

The Princess of Dashkaw, President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, acknowledged her Certificate of Membership, by letter of August 2 (O.S.), 1791, and sent two Books "accounted curious:"—The three Georgicks and some Books of the *Æneid* of Virgil, translated into Greek.

1792. *April* 20. (Sergeant, Collin, Peale, Waters, Nicholson.)

Election of new members postponed.

1792. *May* 4. (W. Barton, Vaughan, Wistar, Ruston, Williams.)

The President as Chairman was requested to call the Committee of Selection and Publication together, to expedite the publication of the Vol. now in press.

Proposed By-Law, laid over to the next meeting: "That all communications accompanied with Specimens in any branch of Natural Philosophy, shall be referred to a Committee for examination & Report, before the Society make reply to the persons who present them."

Rediger's account of £6 · 14 · 6, passed.

"Agreed, That at the next meeting the Committees mentioned in the 12th Bye Law shall be appointed, & the first named of each Committee shall be the Chairman." Also that the Secretaries furnish the Chairmen with extracts from the Minutes.

1792. *May* 18. (Rittenhouse, Collin, Dr. Barton, W. Barton, Williams, Magaw.)

A Latin letter of thanks from Prof. C. P. Thunberg, of Upsal, December 30, 1791.

A letter from Ed. Pole, Philadelphia, with a packet from Thos. Pole, London, containing a letter directed to the Society (February 3), representing an extraordinary case of Extra-Uterine Gestation, published by W. Turnbull, also an extra set of plates.

A copy of Col. George Morgan's letter (to his brother the late Dr. J. Morgan), dated Prospect, New Jersey, "respect the Ancient Fortifications found in the Western Country, on the Mississippi [*sic*] & Missouri Rivers, with a *Draft* of one opposite to the Scioto," was read.

Rittenhouse's letter to Patterson "giving a Method of

finding the Sum of the several Powers of the Sines either to a radius of unity or any other," was read.

Dr. Barton read "a Botanical Description of the *Podophyllum dyphyllum*, now called *Jeffersonia Virginica*."

An account of some Fossil Shells discovered in Virginia, and additional facts concerning the Bursted Hill in North Carolina, was read out of a letter from Dr. Jas. Greenway, of Dinwiddie county, Virginia, to Dr. Barton.

The Secretaries were desired to execute Article 3 of Report of Library Committee as soon as the Catalogue was ready.

1792. June 15. (Rittenhouse, Jefferson, Hazard, Dr. B. S. Barton, Patterson.)

Belknap's History of New Hampshire, Vol. III, was presented; also Hazard's Historical Collections, Vol. I.

Sundry papers from R. Vall-Travers, of Hamburg, 1789, were read by Rittenhouse.

Wm. Waring's Observations on the Theory of Water wheels, was read by Patterson.

Captain Billings' Journal from Philadelphia to Oporto and back, in 1791, containing daily observations of the temperature of air and water, was presented.

1792. July 20. (Rittenhouse and 15 others.)

William Bartram's Travels in Georgia, and some Latin catalogues were presented.

Jon. Williams' memoir on the Claying of Sugars (Mt. Pleasant, July 17), was read.

Dr. Fothergill, of Bath, England, thanks the Society warmly by letter for his membership; wishing "that anything may occur to him in the part of the world where he resides 'that may seem worthy the notice of so enlightened a Society—whose great object is the welfare, happiness & improvement of man,—knowing no distinction of nation or climate.'"

Election of four new members: Erasmus Darwin, M.D., Derby, England; Dr. W. Currie, “author of a new medical publication;” Uno Von Troil, Archbishop of Sweden, author of letters on Iceland, and Mr. John Trumbull, “Painter in history &c.”

1792. *August* 18. (Turner in the Chair; Peale, W. Barton, Vaughan, Williams.)

Valentius on Inoculation [*sic*], was presented by the author, and W. Smith’s History of New York, by W. Barton.

1792. *Sept.* 21. (Collin in the Chair, and 10 others.)

“Explanatory Observations on a Thermometrical Journal of the Atmosphere & sea, to & from Oporto, by Captn W. Billings,” in a letter from Jon. Williams, was read, “with an Extract from the Journals inclosed.” Referred to Committee of Selection and Publication.

“An Investigation of the Powers of Dr. Barker’s Mill, as improved by Mr. Jas. Rumsey, with a description of the Mill, by W. Waring,” was read, and referred to the Committee of Selection and Publication.

1792. *Oct.* 5. (Legaux, Du Ponceau, Patterson, Peale, Collin, Barton, W. Barton, Turner, Nicholson, Morris, Vaughan, Williams.)

Legaux presented a copy of “*Essai Historique sur la Colonie de Surinam.*”

“A Stone Dodecahedron, found on the shore of the Ohio, was presented by Dr. Chas. Brown.”

Barton, Peale and Vaughan, a Committee to answer Baron de Hupsch’s letter from Cologne, October 16, 1789.

“Ordered, That all Papers selected for Publication by the Committee, be forthwith put into the hands of the Printer; but upon this express condition, That he shall proceed with all despatch to complete the Work and publish the Volume

of Transactions now in hand. And the Printer be called upon to specify the time at which the Work may be ready for delivery."

1792. Oct. 19. (Collin, Chairman, and 9 others.)

Rediger's account for Wood and services, £6 .. 7 .. 9 approved.

Indian Figures.—Letter from Major Jon. Hart, Fort Har-mar, August 20, 1791.

"SIR, Agreeably to your request I made enquiry for the mouth of Indian creek water very low, affording an opportunity of viewing the inscriptions, some of which I now enclose ; they are only the fancy of idle Indians, being exactly similar to the daily labour of Indians on the barks of their huts, on trees, &c. as is still customary amongst all the tribes I have been acquainted with.

"Nos. 1, 12, 3, 4 are the Inscriptions on different rocks. The only thing which appears remarkable to me is, the extent of these rocks, their hardness, and the amazing labour necessary to complete the figures over the whole extent, without the help of Tools.

"The most extraordinary discovery yet made with respect to remains of art, is a black slate stone,—an exact twelve sided Figure, even to a mathematical exactness ; the faces of it being a Pentagon ; the sides of which are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Inch. This Stone was found on the Banks of the Ohio, when by late floods the banks had caved in. It is not the Work of Nature ; & scarcely possible to have been made by any Uropean [*sic*] nation, since the discovery of America. Neither can I conceive it possible to have been made by Indians in their present state. To me, it is a convincing proof, that the Persons who formed it, must have been perfectly acquainted with the proportions of the Circle and Square. Perhaps I am inclined to be enthusiastic. But I cannot conceive of a Person accidentally falling upon that Figure, or even being* in any way to form it, without a regular process from the Circle ; & reducing it mathematically to the 12-sided Figure.

"Col. Meigs, who does me the Honour to deliver this, will be able to answer every Query respecting that valuable Remain of Antiquity." "I have the Honour" &c.

"Note. [by the Secretary] A 12-sided figure ; each side or Face is the exact Plane of a Pentagon ; & the side of the Pentagon's measure is exactly $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; so that 5 sides of the Pentagon ; *i. e.*, the circumference of each Pentagon measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Its thickness from any two opposite sides is $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. This figure appears to have been made of black

*Able ?

Flint, & is exceedingly well polished. It was found washed out of the Bank of the River Ohio, at a place called Bellville, 30 miles below Marietta. It is now in possession of Joseph Wood, Esq., at Marietta."

A Thesis, in French, on the Diseases of St. Domingo, and hot climates in general, addressed to the Society by the Chev. de St. George, Chirurgien Major des Hopitaux de la Marine Royale à Port au Prince, was read, with a note from Dr. Foulke.

1792. Nov. 2. (Rittenhouse; Ross, Barton, W. Barton Peale, Thornton, Turner, Williams, Patterson, Collin.)

Aitkin's letter was read, and his bill for printing Queries respecting the Hessian Fly, £6 .. 10, passed.

Rev'd. Mr. Cutler's letter to Dr. Barton about the ancient Muskingum Forts was read.

For the Premium: "A proposed method of managing the sails of a ship by mechanism," by "I. S. S."

Treasurer directed to borrow on interest \$200 on the credit of the Society, to complete the Volume in press; the printer to give security for the repayment of all advances made to him as soon as the amount shall be raised by the sale of the said Volume.

1792. Nov. 16. (Rittenhouse and 8 others.)

Brahm's book, "Time an Apparition of Eternity," presented with a letter to Rittenhouse, which was read.

For the Premium: "An Essay on Gauging" by "W."

1792. Dec. 7. (Rittenhouse and 11 others.)

The Officers and Council who met November 28, "particularly recommend for further inspection, this present year, that an award may take place 1. The Piece on the pointing of Electrical Rods This communication was very near having a decisive opinion given concerning it last year. 2. A proposed Method of working the Sails 3. A new piece of Mechanism, called the 'Eleva-

tor,' designed principally for lifting to a great inaccessible height. 4. A proposed Improvement in Guaging, wherein the various sources of error in the present practice are pointed out. 5. 'Cadmus' or a Philosophical Dissertation on the Elements of written Language."

"N. B.—A question having arisen relative to the last named piece, Whether it has been received, at the last meeting, within the Stated Hours of Business? It was unanimously determined in the Affirmative."

"A tract . . . illustrating . . . the Theory of Tides, is considered as appertaining to next year."

It was then ordered that "Cadmus" be admitted to compete the present year and referred for further consideration to a Committee: Dr. Smith, Dr. Andrews, Mr. Patterson and Dr. Magaw.

And "Guaging" to a Committee: Dr. Rittenhouse, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Williams.

1792. Dec. 21. (Rittenhouse, Page, of Virginia; Peale, Hutchinson, Wistar, Vaughan, Anderson, Andrews, Turner, of Western Territory, Chief Justice McKean, Dr. Williamson, of North Carolina, Ewing, Nicholson, Ruston, Patterson, Williams, W. Barton, Magaw, and Mr. —.)

Committee on "Guaging" reported verbally, "to the following effect, viz:": [Space left blank.]

Committee on "Cadmus" reported in writing:

"That they have perused it & found it to be a very ingenious and learned Performance, proposing many improvements in the science of communicating ideas by visible signs. They are of opinion that it is, perhaps, not to be expected that many of these improvements will suddenly be adopted; it may nevertheless, have the best tendency to introduce gradually, greater perfection in speaking and writing the English Language: and that such encouragement as the Society may think proper to give the Author, will be judiciously bestowed."

Signed, Smith, Magaw, Andrews.

The several recommended pieces were then read, or such parts of them as the Society judged necessary.

Vote on "Whether any of the communications under inspection are worthy of the Premium?" Passed in the Affirmative.

"The Society then proceeded to determine by ballot the inventions or improvements most useful & worthy."

"A premium was awarded to the Inventor of the Improvement of Electrical Rods, or Lightning Conductors, by pointing them with Blacklead."

"A premium was also awarded to a Piece entitled 'Cadmus,' or a Philosophical Dissertation on the Elements of Written Language."

"Ordered that a full account of the crowned subjects, be published, and also an abstract of the Titles, object or subject matter of the communications which lie over for consideration."

Auditors appointed : Patterson and Williams.

1793. Jan'y 4, 2½ P. M. (11 present, including Burgess Allison* of Bordentown.)

The Auditing Committee reported £1 · 16 · 10 in the Treasurer's hands, and £164 · 10 · 6 in the Magellanic Fund.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

President—Dr. D. Rittenhouse.

Vice-Presidents—T. Jefferson, Dr. J. Ewing, Dr. W. Smith.

Treasurer—J. Vaughan.

Curators—Dr. B. Barton, Dr. Wistar, Mr. Peale.

Councillors for three years—Dr. J. Thornton, Chief Justice McKean, W. Barton and Dr. Blackwell.

Secretaries—Hutchinson, Williams, Magaw, Patterson.

[Then follows a page of the record of the publication ordered at the last meeting, respecting Philo-Franklin's Blacklead rod points; then, eight blank pages evidently intended to continue the relation.]

* Spelled *Burgiss* Allison in Catalogue of March, 1880.